

2015 Preventive Roof/Rib Outreach Program

Points to Remember

In 2014, almost 300 miners were injured from falls of roof or ribs. Research has shown that the vast majority of these injuries were caused by small pieces of rock that fell out from between the bolts or between the ATRS and the last row of bolts.

Ways to lessen the hazard include:

- Be aware that most roof fall injuries are occurring in areas that are considered supported.
- Communicate with the foreman and other miners when adverse roof/rib conditions are observed.
- Follow the approved roof control plan, and remember that the roof control plan contains the *minimum* support system for controlling the roof. Changing conditions may require installation of supplemental support.
- Use proper skin control, such as straps, pizza pans or screen wire mesh, where loose roof or ribs may be encountered.
- Scale loose roof and ribs.
- Position ATRS and canopies to maximize protection.
- When the roof is composed of rocks that are more prone to weathering, install more surface control coverage. Keep your mind on the task being performed - avoid distractions.

Ways mine management can lessen the hazards include:

- Make available the proper equipment and support materials for correcting adverse roof/rib conditions.
- Monitor roof fall accidents and injuries to evaluate the adequacy of the roof control plan.
- Revise the roof control plan when conditions indicate that it is not adequate.
- Install screen wire mesh for skin control where appropriate.